Research Seminar Political Science

You are cordially invited to the following seminar Tuesday, 16 March from 10:00 – 11:00hrs, ONLINE via ZOOM

Fintan Oeri
Ph.D. student

- Bachelor in Business and Economics at University of Basel, Switzerland (10-14)
- MSc International Political Economy at UCD, Ireland (14-15)
- Microeconomics sequence at Gerzensee, Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics, (18-19)
- Member of SCCER CREST, work package 4
- Currently: Studying for PhD at Prof Aya Kachi’s chair International Political Economy and Energy Policy (since 17, expected completion 22)

How Economic Resources, Lobbying Capacity and Group Type Shape Lobbying Influence

With the effects of climate change becoming more and more discernible, the political dimension of energy transitions naturally come into focus. However, surprisingly little is known on the resources and strategies relevant stakeholders employ to shape such transitions according to their preferences. Moreover, there is even less evidence on their effectiveness in doing so. In the course of explaining differences between interest groups, the paper addresses often neglected ambiguities in the conceptualisation and operationalisation of policy influence. Building on an original survey with 312 Swiss energy policy stakeholders and data from consultation submission processes in Swiss energy policy, the study compares the explanatory power of a range of organisational, resource and network variables. Economic resources are found have little effect on policy influence among business actors, whereas non-business actors gain policy influence by having more economic resources. In contrast, possessing a larger lobbying capacity significantly increases the policy influence of business actors, whereas it has nearly no effect among non-business actors. The results highlight the need to account for heterogeneous effects between group types and revises common notions regarding the effects of organisational resources on policy influence.